

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 10358 01 OF 02 172155Z
ACTION DEAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9203
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 10358

CONSULATES FOR DEA; CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, BR
SUBJ: NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES

REF: STATE 284346

1. THE PRIMARY AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT
IN BRASIL ARE THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS ORGANIZATIONS. DESPITE
EMBASSY EFFORTS TO ENLIST THEIR PARTICIPATION, BRAZILIAN
CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES HAVE TO DATE SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST
IN NARCOTICS-FOCUSED TRAINING PROGRAMS. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS
KEYED TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL ARE THEREFORE RESTRICTED
TO BRAZILIAN POLICE FORCES:

A)BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN
NARCOTICS CONTROL DO NOT AT PRESENT HAVE A NARCOTICS
TRAINING PROGRAM, PER SE.

B) NARCOTICS TRAINING IS CONDUCTED AS BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 10358 01 OF 02 172155Z

WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GENERAL POLICE PREPARATORY
COURSES. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THE FEDERAL POLICE CURRENTLY
ADMINISTER TWO SUCH COURSES: ONE FOR AGENTS (SIX MONTHS
DURATION--APPROXIMATELY 36 HOURS OF NARCOTICS TRAINING)
AND ONE FOR PERSONNEL ENTERING AT MID-LEVEL AS INSPECTORS
(ONE YEAR'S DURATION--APPROXIMATELY 45 HOURS OF

NARCOTICS TRAINING). IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE FEDERAL POLICE PLAN TO CONSIDERABLY EXPAND THESE BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION, CHIEFLY THROUGH THE INCORPORATION OF PRACTICAL EXERCISES MODELED AFTER THOSE CONDUCTED IN DEA COURSES. INSTRUCTION AT PRESENT IS RESTRICTED TO THE CLASSROOM. DATA ON STATE POLICE FORCE TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS IS LIMITED; HOWEVER, NARCOTICS TRAINING IS MINIMAL OR NON-EXISTENT AT THIS LEVEL. FOR EXAMPLE, THE RECRUITS TO THE CIVILIAN POLICE ACADEMY OF THE SAO PAULO STATE POLICE FORCE, WHICH IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST ADVANCED STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY IN BRAZIL, RECEIVE ONLY 30 DAYS BASIC TRAINING, OF WHICH 3-4 HOURS IS DEVOTED TO NARCOTICS. IN THE RECENT PAST 14 STATES HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENTS WITH THE FEDERAL POLICE, BY WHICH THE LATTER UNDERTAKE TO PROVIDE NARCOTICS TRAINING IN EXCHANGE FOR STATE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT, WHERE NECESSARY, FOR FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS. THE FEDERAL POLICE HAVE BARELY BEGUN TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THESE AGREEMENTS.

C) AT PRESENT, ALL TRAINING FOR THE FEDERAL POLICE IS CARRIED OUT AT THE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY IN BRASILIA; FACILITIES ARE GOOD. BESIDES THE GENERAL PREPARATORY COURSES, THE SCHOOL OFFERS AN EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR UPPER LEVEL PERSONNEL. MOST BRAZILIAN STATES HAVE PREPARATORY ACADEMIES BOTH FOR THE STATE MILITARY POLICE (IN FACT, A CIVILIAN UNIFORMED FORCE RESPONSIBLE FOR PATROLLING, TRAFFIC CONTROL, CONTROL OF CIVIL DISTURBANCE, AND SOME INVESTIGATIONS), AND THE STATE "CIVIL" POLICE (A PRIMARILY INVESTIGATIVE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 10358 01 OF 02 172155Z

ADMINISTRATIVE FORCE). SEVERAL OF THE LESS DEVELOPED STATES AND TERRITORIES, CHIEFLY IN THE AMAZON REGION, LACK TRAINING FACILITIES AND RELY ON THOSE OTHER STATES.

D) AND E) DATA ON INSTRUCTORS AT STATE LEVEL IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE. AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, THE POLICE ACADEMY IS STAFFED PRIMARILY BY FEDERAL POLICE OFFICERS, SOME OF WHOM DEVOTE THE MAJORITY OF THEIR TIME TO OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL. APART FROM SEVERAL TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS, FEW OF THE INSTRUCTORS HAVE HAD TEACHER TRAINING OR POLICE INSTRUCTION BEYOND PREPARATORY COURSES. MANY, HOWEVER, HOLD THE EQUIVALENT OF A BACHELOR OF LAW DEGREE, WHICH IS PREREQUISITE TO PROMOTION TO MID-LEVEL IN THE FEDERAL POLICE. THE LATTER IS OF VALUE IN INSTRUCTION RELATED TO CRIMINAL JUDICIAL PROCEDURE, RULES OF EVIDENCE, AND THE LIKE. HOWEVER, INSTRUCTION IN PRACTICAL POLICE WORK DRAWS HEAVILY ON

THE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE FACULTY. IN MORE TECHNICAL FIELDS, THE SCHOOL ALSO MAKES AMPLE USE OF EXPERTS CONTRACTED FROM UNIVERSITIES OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO TEACH SPECIFIC BLOCKS OF INSTRUCTION.

NARCOTICS TRAINING AT THE POLICE ACADEMY IS CONDUCTED BY FOUR OFFICERS, ALL OF WHOM DIVIDE THEIR TIME BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND REGULAR OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. (ONE OF THEM IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE NARCOTICS REPRESSION DIVISION OF THE FEDERAL POLICE.) ALL HAVE HAD FORMAL NARCOTICS TRAINING WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS OBTAINED THROUGH DEA. ONE ATTENDED THE SIX-WEEK INSTRUCTOR'S COURSE AND THREE HAVE ATTENDED THE SIX-WEEK DEA AGENT'S COURSE. THEY APPEAR TO BE HIGHLY COMPETENT.

F) STATISTICS ON NARCOTICS SEIZURES ARE MAINTAINED BY THE FEDERAL POLICE, AS WELL AS BY SOME STATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BRASIL 10358 01 OF 02 172155Z

FORCES. HOWEVER, EVEN ASSUMING THAT NARCOTICS TRAINING PER SE IS A PRIMARY FACTOR OF SUFFICIENT WEIGHT TO DETERMINE STATISTICAL TRENDS, THERE IS TOO LIMITED A BASIS IN EXPERIENCE TO PROVIDE A STATISTICALLY BASED ASSESSMENT OF ITS OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS. HOWEVER, THOSE DEA AGENTS WHO WORK CLOSELY WITH FEDERAL AND STATE NARCOTICS SQUADS HAVE NOTED A MARKED INCREASE IN THE ABILITY AND CAPACITY FOR INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE OF THESE GROUPS, WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTE IN PART TO ADVISORY ASSISTANCE AND IN PART TO POLICE TRAINING PROVIDED IN DEA COURSES.

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 10358 02 OF 02 172204Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 10358

CONSULATES FOR DEA; CARACAS FOR DEA

G) BRAZIL WOULD BE HIGHLY RECEPTIVE TO A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO DEVELOP SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING. SUCH A PROPOSAL ARISES AT THE MOST TIMELY POSSIBLE MOMENT, SINCE COMPREHENSIVE NARCOTICS LEGISLATION PROMULGATED IN OCTOBER REQUIRES ALL FEDERAL POLICE PERSONNEL WORKING IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD TO HAVE SPECIALIZED TRAINING. IT IS A REQUIREMENT WHICH THE FEDERAL POLICE HAVE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. TO MEET IT, PARTICULARLY IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF PROGRAMMED RAPID EXPANSION IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AS WELL AS OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED IN AGREEMENTS WITH STATE POLICE FORCES, THE FEDERAL POLICE HAVE DRAWN UP PLANS TO BEGIN DEVELOPING IN 1977 A CORPS OF NARCOTICS INSTRUCTORS (12-15 IN NUMBER), WHICH WOULD FURNISH TRAINING FOR ENTERING OR RECYCLED PERSONNEL AT THE POLICE ACADEMY IN BRASILIA, AS WELL AS ON-SITE TRAINING TO VETERAN OFFICERS OF THE STATE AND FEDERAL POLICE STATIONED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. INDEED, DEPENDING ON THE TIMING OF A CONCRETE US COMMITMENT, DEA'S ROLE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 10358 02 OF 02 172204Z

GLOBAL PLANNING WOULD LIKELY BE CIRCUMSCRIBED IN SOME DEGREE BY THE NEED TO CONFORM TO A NASCENT PROGRAM INITIATED BY THE BRAZILIANS THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, ASSISTANCE OF THE SORT ENVISAGED UNDER STEPS 2 AND 3 OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTTEL WOULD BE VERY WELCOME TO BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES, AS IT WOULD PERMIT THEM TO ADVANCE DRAMATICALLY THE TIMETABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TEACHING CORPS AND, THROUGH IT, OF A MORE PROFESSIONALIZED BODY OF NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, FEDERAL AND STATE.

H) THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE MOST USEFUL APPROACH, BECAUSE MOST CONDUCIVE TOWARDS AND SUPPORTIVE OF BRAZILIAN INITIATIVES IN THE NARCOTICS TRAINING FIELD, IS THE PROVISION OF INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT TRAINING. GIVEN LIMITED RESOURCES, SUCH TRAINING IS BEST FOCUSED ON THE FEDERAL POLICE, WHO HAVE BEGUN TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM IN THIS FIELD AND ARE THE LEADING EDGE FOR NARCOTICS

TRAINING AT BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS. AS BRAZIL'S MOST PROFESSIONAL NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY, THE FEDERAL POLICE CAN FIELD THE BEST CANDIDATES FOR SUCH TRAINING, AND--THANKS TO ONGOING MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS UNDER CCINC--HAVE THE BEST MATERIAL BASE FOR INSTRUCTION. WHILE FEDERAL POLICE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SENDING A FEW SELECTED TOP LEVEL PERSONNEL TO US FOR SUCH TRAINING, ON THE THEORY THAT "TOTAL IMMERSION" WOULD BE PARTICULARLY BENEFICIAL, THEIR BASIC PREFERENCE, TO WHICH EMBASSY SUBSCRIBES, IS THAT TRAINING TAKE PLACE IN BRAZIL. FOR THE US THIS SHOULD REPRESENT A NET FINANCIAL GAIN DERIVED FROM SAVINGS IN TRAVEL COSTS (BRAZILIANS FLYING TO THE US FOR TRAINING RECEIVE TICKETS PAID BY USG). FOR THE FEDERAL POLICE, IT AVOIDS THE MANIFOLD ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS INVOLVED IN ARRANGING THE DEPARTURE ABROAD OF THEIR PERSONNEL.

I) POST BELIEVES PROBABILITY OF BRAZIL'S CONDUCTING REGIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 10358 02 OF 02 172204Z

NARCOTICS TRAINING IS LOW DURING THE NEAR TO MEDIUM TERM. BRAZILIAN CAPABILITIES AT PRESENT ARE LIMITED. NARCOTICS TRAINING AT THE STATE LEVEL IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT. AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, A SMALL AND RECENTLY DEVELOPED CORP OF PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS PROVED SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE BASIC TRAINING TO RECRUITS OF THE FEDERAL POLICE, BUT IS INADEQUATE TO COMPLY WITH NEWLY ESTABLISHED LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING AND, IN ADDITION, TO MEET PROGRAMMED INCREASES IN POLICE MANPOWER AND PROVIDE TRAINING SUPPORT TO STATE POLICE. THEREFORE, EVEN WITH AN EXPANSION IN THE TEACHING FORCE, THE FEDERAL POLICE ARE LIKELY TO BE FULLY OCCUPIED IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE IN MEETING THE TRAINING NEEDS OF BRAZILIAN POLICE PERSONNEL. LIMITED CAPABILITY IS A MAJOR FACTOR BEARING ON FEASIBILITY OF REGIONAL TRAINING BY BRAZIL. ANOTHER IS LANGUAGE. ALTHOUGH SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE ARE SIMILAR ENOUGH TO MAKE POSSIBLE BASIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SPEAKERS, ANY BUT THE MOST SIMPLE INSTRUCTION FOR A MIXED CLASS WOULD REQUIRE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSLATION. (OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED DEA SCHOOLS CONDUCTED IN SPANISH INDICATED THAT A GOOD DEAL OF THE MATERIAL PRESENTED WAS LOST TO THEM BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES.) EQUIPMENT FOR SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION WITHIN GROUPS OF UP TO 100 IS CURRENTLY IN PIPELINE UNDER NCAP FOR DELIVERY TO THE FEDERAL POLICE, AND COULD SERVE TO OVERCOME THE LANGUAGE BARRIER. HOWEVER, GIVEN BRAZIL'S POSITION AS THE ONLY PORTUGUESE-LANGUAGE STATE IN SOUTH AMERICA, AND GIVEN THE WEST COAST FOCUS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS, IT WOULD APPEAR MORE LOGICAL FROM AN OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT AND MORE BENEFICIAL IN THE FORGING OF COOPERATIVE REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS TO CONDUCT REGIONAL TRAINING IN A SPANISH-SPEAKING STATE.

2. POST WISHES TO AGAIN UNDERLINE ITS REQUEST THAT
BRAZIL RECEIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION FOR INSTRUCTOR TRAINING, IN
VIEW OF THE FORTUITOUS OPPORTUNITY WHICH HAS ARISEN TO PROVIDE
TIMELY SUPPORT TO A PROMISING BRAZILIAN INITIATIVE.
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